## XLVIII. *A Letter of Mr.* William Shervington *to* Benjamin Franklin, *Eſq; of* Philadelphia, *concerning the* Tranſit *of* Mercury *over the* Sun, *on the* 6 *of* May 1753, *as obſerved in the Iſland of* Antigua: *Communicated by Mr.* Peter Collinſon, *F. R. S.*

SIR, Antigua, June 20, 1753.

Read Nov. 15, 1753. MR. Benjamin Mecom having received half a dozen circulatory letters from you relating to Mercury's tranſit over the ſun the 6 of laſt May, he put them into my hands. One would have ſufficed for our iſland, as we are not overburthen'd with men, who have a taſte that way. Hereunder I ſend you the reſult of my obſervation * thereof.

Sunday, May 6, at $6^h\ 7'\ 51''$, I obſerved the weſtern limb of Mercury to touch the weſtern limb of the ſun; and, at $6^h\ 10'\ 37''$, he touch'd the ſame with his eaſtern limb, and totally diſappear'd. Lat. of the place $17^\circ\ 0'$ N. Lon. by eſtimation $61^\circ\ 45'$ W. from London.

This was taken by a Graham's watch, and corrected by two altitudes taken by a moſt exquiſite quadrant; *viz.*

At

* Dr. Charles Roſe, who was in Antigua at this time, ſays, that theſe obſervations were taken by Capt. Richard Tyrrel, of the ſaid iſland,

At $6^h\ 58'\ 7''$, I obſerved the diſtance of the ſun's upper limb from the zenith $= 72^\circ\ 21'\ 30''$. And, at $9^h\ 31'\ 5''$, I obſerved the ſame $= 36^\circ\ 17'\ 0''$.

By the common proceſs (which you may have, if neceſſary) I found the watch was $0^\circ\ 4'\ 4''\ 28'''$ too faſt *; therefore,

| | h | ′ | ″ | ‴ |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| From — — — | 6 | 10 | 37 | |
| Take — — — | 0 | 4 | 4 | 28 |
| True appar$^t$. time of Merc$^s$. exit here, | 6 | 6 | 32 | 32 |

Pray impart your obſervation to

Your Well-wiſher,

William Shervington.

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iſland, and who is poſſeſſed of a valuable collection of aſtronomical inſtruments, made by Mr. Bird in the Strand, London, and that Mr. Shervington only was preſent.

* Mr. Shervington has taken the mean of theſe two altitudes from the error of his watch; and there can be no doubt that his obſervation is a good one, which, compared with that made in Surry-ſtreet by Mr. Short, *p.* 199, *l.* 1. *&c.* fixes the longitude of the place of his obſervation in Antigua $4^h\ 5'\ 30''$, or $61^\circ\ 22'\ 30''$, weſt of St. Paul's, London.